



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION
140 MAIN STREET
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01752**

Traffic Commission Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 10:00am in the City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief Mark Leonard, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni, Fire Chief Kevin Breen and City Clerk Lisa Thomas. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins and Incoming Police Chief Dave Giorgi. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, December 20, 2016.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
TO APPROVE - Accept and Place on File.

2 – New Business

2a) Elm Street @ Bigelow St. intersection concerns.

Pam Wilderman sent an email to Chief Leonard advising that the homeowner from 488 Elm Street stopped by her office to express concern over this intersection. There have been a number of accidents where drivers have “blown through the intersection” and ended up on his property or that of the neighbors’ in the eventual accident. He was asking if it was possible to re-work the intersection or any other options that could possibly help. Chief Leonard said that the throat of this intersection is wide and that people may not realize the stop sign is there due to the way the roadway opens up. He asked if there was a way to highlight the stop sign or indicate that there is a stop ahead.

Tim Collins advised that there used to be a small stop sign here but it has been replaced by a bigger sign. He also noted that the advance warning sign was not in the proper place and that this part of Elm Street is posted at 30mph but those coming off other roads may not

be aware that the speed has slowed. Chief Leonard said that he believes the main concern is with people coming off Bigelow onto Elm. Chief Leonard brought two recent accident reports involving vehicles that either blew through the stop sign or did not know it was there. One hit a tree and rolled over and the other went through the yard of 488 Elm and into the driveway hitting the property owner's car. He also noted, however, that some of the accidents here have involved drugs or alcohol.

Tim Collins said that the signage was upgraded in March of 2016 but that ultimately he is looking for a guardrail. Highlighting the stop sign may be the only thing that can be done from a Traffic Commission standpoint, however, lighted signs cost \$2,000 each. Commissioner Ghiloni said that maybe in the future they could look at the makeup of the intersection but short term the DPW can look into signage again. It can be put on Engineering's radar for future improvements. An island was another option mentioned, however, the Commissioner said he would rather see changes to the roadway than an island. Islands create issues for snowplowing.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to check the advance warning sign, stop line and stop sign.

2b) Request for stop sign on Montanari Drive.

A resident of Hunter Ave. sent in this request. She said in her email that "EVERY morning when she drives up her street to go to work someone coming out of Montanari Dr. never stop before pulling out and EVERY morning I am close to being t-boned".

Chief Leonard said that he is sure that this area would not meet the warrants for a stop sign but asked if it would be allowed because of the T-intersection. Tim Collins advised that it is actually a four-way intersection. Hunter is very narrow compared to Montanari. The stop sign would need to be placed on Hunter not Montanari if it were allowed. The normal rule of the road is that whoever gets there first goes first. If they get there at the same time, the person on the right goes first. Since the intersection does not meet the warrants for a stop sign, the request cannot be approved.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE.

2c) City Council acceptance of Section 17C of Chapter 90.

The City Council accepted this new section of Chapter 90 which allows the City to reduce the speed limit in thickly settled zones from 30 mph to 25 mph. Chief Leonard had already advised the City Council that the Traffic Commission discussed Section 17C and would prefer to see a street by street change as needed rather than a citywide change in the speed limit. This would give the City more options in Thickly Settled Zones. Chief Leonard said that he would let the Mayor's office know that the Traffic Commission is in favor of accepting the new section.

The City Council also referred this acceptance to the Public Safety Committee, however, the Chief was not sure if this Committee ever actually met. Lisa Thomas went to her office to check on this. She found that Councilor Irish was the Chair., Councilor Tunnera was the Vice Chair and Counselor Ossing was also a member. The last meeting was in 2005 and the last referral to the committee was in 2011.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to advise Nick Malano, the Mayor's Aide, that the Traffic Commission is in favor of accepting the new section and that if the Public Safety Committee wants to discuss further the Traffic Commission is available for input.

2d) Request for additional one-way signage on Bicknell Street.

This request came from SeeClickFix.com. The requestor said that several times a day cars travel in the wrong direction here and noted it is a narrow street with limited visibility over a hill and that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs. Tim Collins passed out a photo of the end of this street, which was taken two days ago, indicating that it is clearly marked as one way. There are "Do Not Enter – One Way" signs on each side of the street. It could not be any more clearly marked that this is a one-way street.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE on FILE.

2e) Concern about vegetation in the vicinity of 147 Hildreth Street.

Officer Parente forwarded this concern to Chief Leonard. He took an accident report at this location. A female was pulling out of her driveway and struck another vehicle traveling East on Hildreth St. She advised that her parents have been trying for years to get the property owner at 147 Hildreth Street to cut their bushes as they can never see west onto Hildreth Street when backing out of their driveway.

Tim Collins passed out a photo of this location showing the tall hedges and noted that these types of issues normally go to Code Enforcement. A bush is considered like a fence and, as such, it is not to exceed three feet. The photo shows that the bush is obviously higher than three feet. It appears to be the same height as the roofs of the cars parked in front of the house.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Pam Wilderman of Code Enforcement.

2f) Signage/stop condition on Dicenzo Blvd. at Boston Post Rd.

Chief Leonard received a verbal request to look into this issue. The requestor lives at the condos past Home Depot, The Village at Hager Meadows. He said that he has a terrible time trying to take a left onto Route 20. His street is just past Dicenzo Blvd. He said that Dicenzo has a wide opening and that cars are not coming to a complete stop before turning and are merging onto Rte. 20 instead. When he is trying to turn left, he sees that he has a clear road on rte. 20 and attempts to make the turn, then someone will quickly turn right out of Dicenzo.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that he has also talked to him and he wanted to know if there was a way to highlight the stop sign. The Commissioner thought that there might be something obstructing the stop sign. Tim Collins explained that when Hager Meadows went in Dicenzo Blvd. was created. There was supposed to be a connection from Hager to Dicenzo so that you could go left on Dicenzo and circle around to the signalized

intersection at Target & Home Depot to turn onto Rte. 20. He said that at the time of construction Dicenzo did their part and made a cut but Hager did not complete the connection.

Lisa Thomas advised that she would check the Special Permit to see if it was a requirement. Commissioner Ghiloni also asked who is responsible for enforcing this. Chief Leonard said that he would think that it would be a part of the Building Inspector's responsibility. The problem is that it is now 15 to 20 years later.

Tim Collins suggested that the Condo put up a sign on their property making drivers aware of the traffic. Something stating that they don't have the right of way out of the Condos.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for next the next meeting so that Lisa Thomas, City Clerk, can research the special permit.

3-Old Business

3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Lisa Thomas advised that we are finally almost up to date with the Rules and Regs. There are two more items left to advertise. She said that if you go to the Traffic Commission website you will see everything that will be sent to General Code. This weekend should be the last of the advertisements. Once everything is sent to General Code and updated all members will finally receive a current Rules & Regulations book. She noted that it is too costly to recodify on a yearly basis, any new regulations would get submitted as amendments.

Chief Leonard and Karen Lambert will verify that everything has been advertised and then forward it to General Code and confirm the cost and new contact information. Lisa Thomas said that she has everything in PDF format and can forward it to the Chief.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the CITY CLERK'S office and the POLICE DEPARTMENT to coordinate and finalize this project.

3b) Traffic Concerns at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.

Update: Engineering advised that they would be waiting until the Spring to make any changes here. They don't want to install the new island with the snow.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3c) Request for stop signs on Weed St. at Florence St.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that this issue is still pending.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3d) Parking restriction on Forest Street near AMSA.

Chief Leonard saw that the signs are there, but he thinks they are facing the wrong way. The Chief gave a quick overview of this issue to the incoming Police Chief, Dave Giorgi. He explained how cars at AMSA que up on Forest Street causing problems at pick up time. The new signs state “No Parking”. Chief Leonard would prefer to see them state “No Stopping, Standing or Parking” to avoid vehicles just sitting and waiting. The issue was not as bad this year as we did not get much snow. In previous years, there were high snowbanks on each side making it very difficult to pass cars waiting for students at the school.

Engineering initially advised that 51 signs would be required to clearly mark the stretch of the roadway. Currently, 4 have been installed. Chief Leonard said that they are not working. Tim Collins advised that signs indicating a zone for “No Stopping, Standing or Parking” would be better. The signs would have arrows indicating between here and there. They would be bigger blanket signs that would then need to be followed up with enforcement. If the regulation is clear and the proper signs are in place, the Police Department can write tickets and maybe that will finally help to resolve the issue. In the past, officers have just advised cars to move along as there was no formal regulation.

Mr. Collins again mentioned the issue that when AMSA went into this location they never went before Site Plan. Site Plan would have told them that there was not enough parking available. In the past, they used the vacant lot across the street, however, this area has now been developed. Then they used the lot at 4 Kicks but that also did not work out. The first day of school there were 600 cars in the Fore Kicks lot so Fore Kicks said they couldn't use it anymore. Most parents pick their children up from school which causes a 15-20 minute issue when there is nowhere for cars to wait.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGEINEERING to determine the wording and placement for new signs.

3e) Request to explore the possibility of changing the one-way direction of travel on Hayden Street.

Fire Chief Breen said that he went out and looked at this location and did not find any problems for Fire Apparatus if the direction of travel on Hayden Street was changed. Commissioner Ghiloni said that he does not want to make any changes. Tim Collins also agreed that changing the direction of travel would just create more problems on other roads. All agreed that it was more of a convenience for the Senior Center rather than a necessity.

Chief Leonard advised that it would better to educate those going to the Senior Center instead. They could possibly be directed to the overflow lot at the school first and then if they saw spots below they could continue to drive down. It would also be helpful to have signs at the Senior Center directing drivers to the alternate parking at Ward Park.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to REMOVE from the AGENDA as the issue has been discussed and found to not be a good option at this point.

3f) Request for truck exclusion on Winter Street.

Tim Collins advised that the traffic counts have been completed and it was found that only 3-4% of volume was truck traffic. A minimum of 5% is necessary to consider a truck exclusion. There is currently a sign at the intersection of Elm St. and Winter Street advising that a truck exclusion is ahead. There is a truck exclusion on Lincoln Street. Trucks traveling down Winter Street would end up on Lincoln Street. Trucks making deliveries on Winter St. could proceed down the street but would then need to turn around and come back up.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE from the agenda as Winter Street does not meet the warrants for a truck exclusion.

3g) Request from Tim Collins to evaluate the flashing yellow light at Main/Maple/Hildreth Sts.

Tim Collins provided a brief history lesson on this intersection. Back in 1951 all was flashing yellow with Rte. 85 having the right of way. In 2003, it was changed to a flashing red on Hildreth and a double flashing yellow on Main and Maple. Since it is a wide area and not a T-intersection and both have a flashing yellow, there has always been confusion as to who has the right of way. Engineering is now trying to determine the best way to avoid this confusion. They were suggesting a stop sign on Maple Street so that Main Street keeps going, as it has the main movement. A stop sign on Hildreth Street also works and allows Main Street (Route 85) to have the right of way.

Tim Collins is proposing that the City try a stop sign on Maple St. for a year and see how it goes. Chief Leonard asked if this area meets the warrants for a stop sign. Tim Collins advised that it does because there is more confusion the way it is. Since Maple Street is basically neighborhood traffic a stop sign here should not cause a backup.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the recommendation for a stop sign on Maple Street at Main Street. ALL IN FAVOR.

and

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to prepare the regulation for a vote at the next meeting.

3h) Request for speed limit signage on Boundary Street.

Tim Collins advised that there is no posted speed limit sign here. He also said that the resident making this request actually lives in Northboro. The addresses are confusing here because the houses are in Northboro but the actual street is in Marlborough. He advised that this is a thickly settled zone with a 30mph speed limit. To be considered a thickly settled zone there needs to be an average of 20 feet between building for 1/8 of a mile. It was discussed that this is more of an enforcement issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Lambert
Records Clerk
Marlborough Police Department

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

- Meeting Agenda for Thursday, March 2, 2017. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).
- Draft of minutes from Tuesday, January 31, 2017.
- Email from Pam Wilderman to all Traffic Commission members, dated 11/29/16, re: 488 Elm Street.
- Email from Lynn Comeau to Chief Leonard, dated 1/20/17, re: Traffic.
- Copy of City Council acceptance of Section 17C of Chapter 90 along with a copy of a letter from Mayor Vigeant's recommendation letter.
- See Click Fix entry regarding issue on Bicknell Street
- Email from Officer Parente to Chief Leonard. Dated 1/28/17, re: 17-85-AC

Additional Handouts:

- Diagram of Traffic Signal Plan for Main Street, Brown Street & Granger Blvd.
- Photo of Bicknell Street showing one way and do not enter signage
- Photo of corner of Grove Street and Hildreth Street showing tall hedge on property.